

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 930

Introduced by Assembly Members Irwin and Atkins

February 26, 2015

An act to add Section 980.7 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 930, as introduced, Irwin. Work for Warriors program.

Existing law establishes the office of Adjutant General in the California Military Department, as the commander of all state military forces. Existing law provides for educational and housing assistance for veterans.

This bill would authorize the Adjutant General to establish a Work for Warriors program, to provide direct placement job services to service members, veterans, and military families. The bill would authorize the Adjutant General to accept federal funding to supplement this program and to enter into a memorandum of agreement with other state agencies. The bill would authorize the Employment Development Department to enter into an interagency partnership with the Adjutant General for purposes of the Work for Warriors program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (1) Established in 2012 with a grant from the Speaker of the
2 Assembly, the California Military Department's Work for Warriors
3 program provides direct-placement employment services to
4 California's veterans, military spouses, and dependents.

5 (2) The most successful program of its kind in the nation, the
6 Work for Warriors program has placed more than 3,600 veterans
7 in new careers.

8 (3) Due to the downsizing of the United States Armed Forces,
9 the number of veterans entering the workforce is increasing. The
10 Work for Warriors program is a key resource for veterans leaving
11 active duty and transitioning to private sector employment in
12 California.

13 (4) Based on its high success rate and low cost per placement,
14 the Work for Warriors program is the most effective veterans' job
15 placement program in the country. At present, there are nearly
16 120,000 service members eligible for assistance from the Work
17 for Warriors program residing within the state. This number nearly
18 doubles when estimating spouses' job placement services and
19 triples when considering dependent job placement. Already the
20 lowest cost program in the country, with a per-placement cost of
21 \$400 (compared to other veteran employment programs that cost
22 \$10,000 per placement), the Work for Warriors program is the
23 most efficient and cost-effective program available.

24 (5) Over 200 leading businesses in the state are partnered with
25 the Work for Warriors program. These companies understand the
26 benefit of hiring a veteran, as they receive employees that are
27 disciplined, selfless leaders.

28 (6) Subject to the availability of funding, the Employment
29 Development Department may resource and partner with the Work
30 for Warriors program to supplement the state's existing veteran
31 employment programs.

32 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to codify the California
33 Military Department's Work for Warriors program and establish
34 an interagency relationship between the program and the
35 Employment Development Department to better serve California's
36 veterans as they transition from military to civilian life.

37 SEC. 2. Section 980.7 is added to the Military and Veterans
38 Code, to read:

1 980.7. (a) (1) The Adjutant General may establish a Work for
2 Warriors program to serve unemployed and underemployed service
3 members, veterans, and military families in California.

4 (2) The program shall provide direct-placement job services to
5 all of the following:

6 (A) The California Military Department.

7 (B) The Army.

8 (C) The Navy.

9 (D) The Air Force.

10 (E) The Marine Corps.

11 (F) The Coast Guard Reserve.

12 (G) Veterans recently separated from active duty.

13 (H) Military spouses.

14 (I) Graduates of California National Guard Youth Programs.

15 (J) Dependents of veterans.

16 (3) The Adjutant General may accept federal funding to
17 supplement the Work for Warriors program. The Adjutant General
18 may appoint a director and other service members and employees,
19 permanent or temporary, to operate the program.

20 (b) (1) The Adjutant General may enter into a memorandum
21 of agreement with other state agencies, including, but not limited
22 to, the Employment Development Department, to operate the Work
23 for Warriors Program.

24 (2) The Employment Development Department may enter into
25 an interagency partnership with the Adjutant General for purposes
26 of the Work for Warriors program.